

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith five pages of Replacement Drawings. FIG. 6B is revised to include the reference label “inclination alpha (α°)” and FIGs. 27-33 are revised to include the description “Prior Art,” as suggested by the Examiner.

As no new matter has been introduced, Applicants respectfully request that the five sheets of replacement drawings FIGs. 6B and 27-33 be entered.

REMARKS**Summary of the Office Action**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, 17, 30-32, 39, 41-45, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) allegedly as being anticipated by Tai (US, 5,854,872).

Claims 35-38, 40, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai.

Claims 5-15, 18-20, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Shingo et al. (JP, 11-052380).

Claims 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Yoshiki (JP, 2002-46159).

Claims 26-29 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Ono et al. (US, 6,607,281).

Claims 3, 21, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Ida et al. (US, 6,799,859).

Claims 1, 4, 13, 20, 41 stand objected to allegedly because of informalities.

The Abstract stands objected to allegedly because it exceeds 150 words and it includes minor informalities.

Drawings stand objected to allegedly because every features of the invention specified in the claims are missing from the figures. In addition, Drawings stand objected to allegedly because FIGs. 27-33 are not labeled as Prior Art.

Summary of Response to the Office Action

Claims 1-10, 13-29, 31, 32, 34-39, 41-43, and 45-48 are amended to further define the invention and claim 30 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, claims 1-29 and 31-48 are presently pending for consideration. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit concurrently herewith five sheets of Submission of Replacement Drawings.

Objection of Specification

The Abstract stands objected because it exceeds 150 words and because it has minor informalities. Applicants amend the Abstract in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Specification be withdrawn.

Objection of Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because "angle alpha (α°)" and "the existence proportion of angle components in the vicinity of the primary light source" referred in claims 4 and 20, "an example of a profile claimed for the first region and second region" recited in claim 20, and "the inclination angle" on the "anisotropic rough surface" claimed in claims 26-29 are missing from the Figures. In addition, Figures 27-33 are objected to because they are missing the "Prior Art" legend.

Applicants amend FIGs. 27-33 by adding the "Prior Art" label as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants amend FIG. 6 to add an "angle alpha (α°)" label to clearly show the features of "angle alpha (α°)" as recited in claims 4 and 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the above mentioned features are clearly shown in the original drawings.

However, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection that features of "the existence proportion of angle components in the vicinity of the primary light source" recited in claims 4

and 20 and “a profile claimed for the first region and a profile claimed for the second region” recited in claim 20 are missing from the drawings. FIG. 7 is a histogram showing a relationship between the existence proportions (%) with respect to a different inclination angle in certain range. Applicants respectfully submit that each angle value corresponds to the “angle component” recited in claims 4 and 20. As described in the original specification, page 12, lines 24 to 27, the “(existing) proportion of the angle component in a certain angle range” is a ratio of the number of micro regions having an (inclination) angle in the same range or over the total number of the micro regions. Thus, the distribution or proportion of the micro regions having the inclination angle of certain range or over all the micro regions is defined.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that FIGs. 10A and 10B show two different regions A and B formed on the light guide 4. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is claiming these two regions in a different way by reciting the “first region” and the “second region.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that original drawings show at least these features of claim 20.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully traverse the objection that the “inclination angle” on the “anisotropic rough surface” recited in claims 26-29 are missing from the figures, such that it is unclear how angles are being measure on an “anisotropic rough surface.” Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-29 are directed to an “average inclination angle” that the average inclination angle is measured in accordance with ISO4287/1-1984, as discussed in the original specification on page 45, line 17 to page 46, line 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that it would be unnecessary to show in the drawings how the “average inclination angle” is measured.

Moreover, the “anisotropic rough surface” recited in claims 26 and 28 is a roughened surface having the average inclination angle in a lengthwise direction of the light outputting surface which is larger than that in a direction perpendicular to the light outputting surface. Such an anisotropic rough surface is described in the original specification, page 49, line 19 to page 50, line 27 with reference to FIG. 24. As shown in FIG. 24, the anisotropic rough surface is shown as an area indicated by reference numeral (light incident end surface) with plural parallel lines extending in Z direction which show the anisotropy.

Thus, based on the above arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that revised FIGs. 6B, 27-33, and the remaining original drawings comply with 37 C. F. R. §1.83(a), therefore Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Objection of claims 1, 4, 13, 20, 41

Claims 1 and 41 stand objected allegedly because the features of “elongated concave/convex structure forming surface is 10% or more” and “existence proportion of angle component” recited in claims 1 and 41 are unclear, claims 4 and 20 stand objected allegedly because the claim language is vague and indefinite, and claim 13 stands objected because of reason as set forth with respect to claims 1 and 41 as well as new numbers presented in the claim.

Claims 1, 4, 13, 20, and 41 are amended to further clarify the subject matter of the invention. In addition, paragraph [0104] of the published application teaches the specific numbers recited in claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection of claims 1, 4, 13, 20, and 41 be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, 17, 30-32, 39, 41-45, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) allegedly as being anticipated by Tai (US, 5,854,872), claims 35-38, 40, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai, claims 5-15, 18-20, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Shingo et al. (JP, 11-052380), claims 22 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Yoshiki (JP, 2002-46159), claims 26-29 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Ono et al. (US, 6,607,281), and claims 3, 21, 23, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) allegedly as being unpatentable over Tai in view of Ida et al. (US, 6,799,859). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims at least for the following reasons.

Claim 30 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn.

With respect to independent claim 1, as amended, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the cited prior art, whether taken singly or in combination, teach or suggest at least an elongated lens forming surface having a plurality of elongated concave/convex structures that includes the features of “a plurality of micro regions defined over a specific number of the plurality of elongated concave/convex structures, wherein a distribution of the micro regions having an inclination angles between 20° and 50° is more than 10% over all micro regions in the vicinity of the primary light source, such that the inclination angle is formed by a tangent to each micro region and is defined in an absolute value.” The Office alleges on page 5 of the Action that Tai discloses “the convex/concave structures have angle components of 20 degree or more

and 50 or less (FIG. 13, item 13).” Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that FIG. 13 of Tai is directed to a prismatic film 24 (Tai, col. 10, lines 6-47). As shown in FIG. 1 of Tai, the prismatic film 24 is a film with microprism structures formed on its surface that is placed in front of the beam expander 6 to bend the light output from the beam expander. On the other hand, “the elongated lens forming surface having a plurality of elongated concave/convex structures” of the Applicants’ claimed invention are formed on the bottom side of the light guide 4. In Tai, the equivalent feature would be the surface 32 formed on the bottom side of the backlight light pipe 30. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the Office has cited the features unrelated to the Applicants’ invention to reject the present application. In addition, Tai is completely silent with regard to the features of how to define the inclination angles and the distribution of the inclination angles formed in the vicinity of the primary light source, as recited by amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Tai fails to teach or suggest every element of independent claim 1, as amended. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully assert that Shingo et al., Yoshiki, Ono et al., Ida et al., whether taken singly or combined, fails to cure the deficiencies of Tai.

Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 42 is distinguished over Tai for reasons similar to those presented above with respect to independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Tai does not teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 1 and 42, thus, Tai fails to anticipate at least independent claims 1 and 42.

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Thus, in light of the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully request that rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) be withdrawn because none of the applied prior art, whether taken singly or in combination, fails to teach or suggest at least the features of independent claims 1 and 42, hence dependent claims 2-29, 31-41, and 43-48.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, withdrawal of all rejections, and the timely allowance of all pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

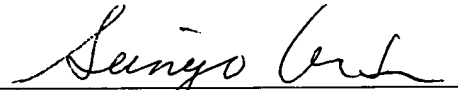
If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.R.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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